

Remarks:


This application has been reviewed carefully in view of the Office Action mailed January 13, 2005 ("the Office Action"). In the Office Action, claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-10 and 21 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), over Japanese Laid-open No. Hei 3-85886, English translation ("Hei 3-85886"), in view of JP 2000025869 (Derwent Abstract) and further in view of Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Hei 9-86569, English translation ("Hei 9-86569").

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 11 and 13-20 were acknowledged to be allowable over the references of record.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants cancel claims 1-10, without prejudice. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application for pending allowable claims 11 and 13-20.

Respectfully submitted,

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